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of continuous drapery on three adjoining windows, and we ask the reader can anything more simple, and at the same time more beautiful, be imagined in window ornament? It will be seen that the lace curtains are taken off the central window, and only one lace curtain is added to both the outside windows, being arranged right and left to balance the composition. The draperies are caught up in a very elegant manner, and fastened by means of tasseled cords. The lambrequin is simple, yet majestic in its outlines, and the whole design will furnish decorators with many excellent suggestions.

HOW TO SIT ON A DIVAN.

"ONLY very, very rarely," explained a charming girl, "does one ever meet in this country either divan, or divan lounger with the vaguest knowledge of correct uses for the ideal piece of furniture. Broad, low, deeply and softly tufted, draped with a heavy rug of smooth surface and heaped with fluffy pillows, it is the apotheosis of physical comfortableness." Then this widely travelled young beauty, who spent several years in Greece, told most entertainingly of her first lesson in sitting on a genuine Turkish couch. It was in Stamboul, the oldest part of Constantinople, that they went to a reception given by an Armenian lady, but recently emancipated, and consequently able to receive general company. Escorted by the son of a grand vizier and a beautifully handsome young Turco-Greek, their sedan-chairs were borne along dark and tortuous streets, through narrow, treacherous alleys, past secretive-looking doorways, to a great arched portal. One rap, the ancient barrier fell away, and behold! all the pagan splendor of Haroun-al-Raschid was suddenly revealed: lofty and sumptuous apartments stretching away, one after another, fitted with gorgeous rugs, carpets of priceless beauty screening the walls, card-tables set here and there, with those tiny tables of beloved memory heaped with crystal comfits. There were present fifty men in Eastern dress, and four women in all—three Europeans and the Armenian hostess. The men played cards diligently, their impassive faces guiltless of expression, while the strange women wandered about examining the many Oriental tressures of the vast rooms. It was not until the American mademoiselle approached a great divan of glowing colors, and proceeded to seat herself, that this curious entertainment became at all enlivened. Drawing her skirts primly about her, she sat gingerly upon the very edge, with two neat little toes carefully balanced to touch the floor. Then the young Greek's dignity was lost in amusement; he laughed, and begged permission to give a few lessons in the art of using a couch. "Sit on your foot," he commanded; "curl it comfortably under you, so. Now be seated, far back, build a wall of cushions about your shoulders, and know true happiness." "Once visit the far East," the story-teller added, "and old prejudices concerning the vulgarity of sitting on your foot are promptly dissipated. All Orientals do it, men as well as women, and with deftness in managing the trick it renders one's attitudes quite as graceful as and infinitely more comfortable than the ordinary posture.—*The Illustrated American.*

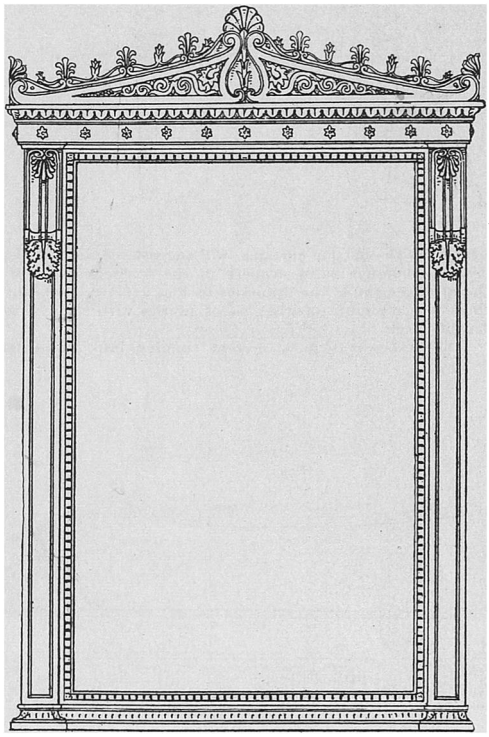


Fig. 7.

THE decorative uses of electricity were most wonderfully shown at the recent "artistic supper" given at the Continental Gallery in London by Mr. Jan Van Beers. The novelty of a luminous table was introduced; it consisted of a solid slab of plate glass, covered with a transparent cloth, through which shown the light from over three hundred and fifty incandescent lamps of prismatic colors. These were skilfully hidden from view and were under the control of the host, who now and again flooded the table with dazzling brilliancy of varied hues, or suffused a gentle glow, bewilderingly beautiful. In addition, across the table artistically laid, ran a rope of roses, apparently to connect three gilt statuettes holding upright wreaths of the same blooms, but which really concealed the slender electric wire that let the white, pink and yellow lamps that swung in the wreaths glow with refulgent light.

A GRACEFUL novelty of the moment in decorating dinner tables is found in distributing the flowers up and down the board, without massing them at any one particular point. To get the correct effect several yards of smilax or other delicate vines are necessary, with shallow porcelain or crystal shells for holding the smaller flowers. At a very elegant dinner given at Bar Harbor last week the cloth used was one of the new naperies just being introduced. The fabric, of silk and flax, was so woven that its glossy surface in no way detracted from the shine and softness of genuine silk. The color, a pale buff, melting into white lights, was heightened by the clusters of flesh colored azaleas embroidered in corners that fell in heavy draperies to the floor. A wide, low amber bowl in the center was wreathed with smilax and filled with light pink and yellow Iceland poppies, which flower bloomed here, there and everywhere. It was to be found in slender Venetian vases, in frail clusters at each cover, and again in dainty needle-work on the hostess's Paris gown, a ravishingly lovely confection of pale gold *mousseline de soie*, lightly sprinkled with handfuls of the delicious flowers.—*Illustrated American.*

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